

May 11, 2004

MEMO TO: Steve DeWitt,, Berry Jenkins, Michael Taylor, Jay Bennett, Ellis Powell,  
Judith Corley-Lay, Jennifer Brandenburg, Terry Hopkins, Kenny Hayes, John Couture,  
Jonathan Bivens and Ben Lindsey

FROM: J.V. Barbour, P.E.  
State Project Services Engineer

SUBJECT: AGC/Roadway Design Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2004

The subject committee met on May 11, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the Design Services Conference Room at the Century Center with the following in attendance:

Ellis Powell	Randy Garris	John Couture
Jay Bennett	Victor Barbour	Shannon Sweitzer
Jonathan Bivens	Kenny Haynes	Steve DeWitt
Michael Taylor	Berry Jenkins	
Roberto Canales	Judith Corley-Lay	

The following items were discussed:

1. Update on Steel Price adjustment

The committee discussed the steel prices and the AASHTO recommendations for handling steel prices, as no adjustments will be made. AASHTO has six recommendations that will be distributed upon approval. Among the things being considered are: substitution of materials, extensions of time, deletion of items, termination of contract, use of temporary guardrail and waivers on Buy America. Industry suggested that the Department consider paying for stored materials, and renegotiating a price for installation and equipment with the contractor.

2. Cement Shortages

The Industry stated that there was a problem getting concrete due to cement shortages. They stated that the suppliers are limited to their quota of last year and anticipate only getting 80% of their quota in the next six weeks to two months. The Department is participating in the discussion with AASHTO and other states on the cement shortages.

3. Turbidity and 400 Foot Buffer Update

The Department distributed a Project Special Provision for Contractor Borrow Source and Waste Sites that will be effective with the June Letting. After much discussion, it was determined that there would be some wording changes to better define the borrow source. The Department is going to review the Project Special Provision with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for further clarification.

4. Right of Way Availability

The Industry stated that there are still issues with the Department not having right of way cleared by the advertisement of letting date in some Divisions. The Industry stated that in some instances, the property owners had not been approached by the Department to buy their property.

We strive to have right of way cleared by the advertisement date and will work with right of way to ensure this does not happen.

5. Project Access (low tonnage roads & bridges)

The Department distributed an attachment concerning charges to contract construction for maintenance activities associated with haul routes for industry comment.

**Other Business**

6. Force Account

The Department has developed a draft Specification that is under review and is scheduled to be carried to the August joint cooperative meeting.

7. DBE goals

The industry may notice an increase in the DBE, MB, WB goals established for Department projects. This is necessary in order for the Department to meet our overall goals.

8. Criteria for establishment of vegetation in channels

Industry feels that with the requirement on some projects that vegetation be established in channels before water is allowed to be diverted into them that the Department establish a criteria or definition of what established vegetation is. Also industry requested that we look at the design requirements and the constructability of some of the channel requirements. All of these issues are new to us and we will take a look at how we can improve our current procedures.

9. Erosion control measures (innovative products) How handled?

The Industry asked about the use of innovative products on projects and how to get approval to use them. The Department has a New Products Committee whose responsibility it is to address the use of New Products. Azam Azimi coordinates the efforts of the committee. He can be reached in Project Services at 919-250-4128.

10. Erosion control items

Industry reported that the quantities specified in our proposals for some erosion control items has increased dramatically from what they feel will be actually needed during construction. If that trend continues bidders may unbalance their bids to take advantage of what they think are inflated quantities. We will investigate and make any changes necessary to provide realistic quantities.

11. Steve DeWitt and Ellis Powell's roles in Department.

Industry has expressed some concerns recently about our recent reorganization and who they should contact with their concerns. Steve is now the Director of Construction and his responsibilities deal with the programmatic issues. Ellis is the State Construction Engineer and his responsibilities include project specific and division issues.

The next meeting will be on 10:00 am on Tuesday, July 13, 2004 in the Project Services Conference Room. The remaining meeting dates for 2004 are: July 13, September 14 and November 9. If you have agenda items, please contact Mr. Jenkins or me. You may want to reserve all day for these meetings in case they run long or there is a need to make a field trip in the afternoon.

JVB:NS:JG